

## Annotated checklist of the birds from Pantelleria Island (Sicilian Channel, Italy): a summary of the most relevant data, with new species for the site and for Italy

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### ABSTRACT

The updated annotated checklist of all the bird species recorded at Pantelleria island (Trapani, Sicily, Sicilian Channel) up to May 2012 along with data on the status of the birds are reported. The total number of species recorded is 261, 43 of which are new for the islands compared to the previous checklist. During our study, very rare species for the Italian fauna were recorded including Semi-collared Flycatcher, Citrine Wagtail, Steppe Eagle, Daurian Shrike, Desert Wheatear, Trumpeter Finch, Black Wheatear and Rufous Bush-Chat. Detailed data and available documentation are reported for the most relevant records.

### KEY WORDS

Pantelleria; birds; checklist; interesting species.

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### INTRODUCTION

The information on the birds of the island of Pantelleria (Sicilian Channel, Italy) are fragmentary and outdated (Foschi, 1968; Moltoni, 1971, 1973; Massa, 1985; Iapichino & Massa, 1989; Lo Valvo et al., 1993; Allegri, 2000), except for sparse records in a recent work dealing with the Sicilian avifauna (Corso, 2005) and in the Atlas of vertebrates of Sicily (AA.VV., 2008). Like in all small islands, the fauna of Pantelleria is highly subject to changes, even relevant: the status of the species breeding or migrating is variable annually, and at the same time new species are likely to colonize, mostly when facing with highly mobile groups such birds. During studies on migrating raptors at Pantelleria on behalf of LIPU, in the period 2004-

2012, extensive data on all migratory and breeding bird species were also collected (Gustin, 2005-2009; Premuda et al., 2007; Corso & Gustin, in press a). With regard to breeding species, an overview summary of the data has already been provided by Corso & Gustin (in press b). Many other observations and collected data will be used for the preparation of additional contributions: particularly, a work about Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* at Pantelleria Island and another about the "Birds of the Sicilian Channel Islands".

In this paper, therefore, we wish to report a summary concerning primarily the migratory species observed, with greater attention to the rare and irregular ones, to vagrants or to the species simply not reported previously at Pantelleria. Finally, we also report the complete updated checklist for the island.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

As a preliminary basis, all the available literature on birds recorded on the island was studied, known data served as a starting point for acquiring new ones. Field observations were conducted primarily in spring, and exactly over the period April 20<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> of the years 2004-2012, on behalf of LIPU.

Moreover, in 2005, a visit was conducted during October 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. In 2008, observations were made during the period August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>, again on behalf of LIPU. In 2010-2012 observations were made by one of us (PF) throughout the whole year (the records we have taken into account for this period are limited to those supported by photographic evidence). For the observations we used binoculars and spotting scopes 10x and 20-60x. The song and calls of many migratory and breeding species were recorded on a digital platform with professional supports. For most of the rarest species, photographic documentation is available. In the case of species recorded in Italy less than ten times, which have to be submitted to the COI (Commissione Ornitologica Italiana, i.e. the "Italian Ornithological Committee"), we report when the record has been already ratified or if is still being assessed (pending). With regard to scientific nomenclature and taxonomy, we referred to historical works such Vaurie (1959; 1965) and to the recent changes to the last checklist of birds of Italy by CISO-COI (Fracasso et al., 2009). For each observation discussed, we have indicated in brackets the name of the author (or authors) of the record (in case this coincides with one or more of the authors of this paper, only the first letter for name and surname are reported: eg. AC for Andrea Corso).

Finally, for what concerns the species which breed on the island, we regarded as surely breeding only the ones observed attending a nest, or feeding juveniles, pairs with recently fledged offspring, thus following all the criteria adopted in the Sicilian Atlas of vertebrates (AA.VV., 2008), the same was for the possible and probable breeding species. All photos are by A. Corso where not specified.

ABBREVIATIONS. A = vagrant: a species for which only few observations (records) are known, the letter A is followed by the number of records known in the case those are well documented (or in the case these are less than 10); ad = adult; AB = A.

Belvisi; AC = A. Corso; B = breeding; det = determination (when a bird has been a posteriori identified by a different person from the observer or the photographer); f = female; im = immature; ind = individual or individuals; juv = juvenile; m = male; Mr = regular migrant; Mi = irregular migrant (often due to lacking data); MV = M. Viganò; N = a new species for the Island not reported earlier by the previous annotated list by Moltoni (1973); PF = P. Ferrandes; SB = in the case the entire population breeding in the site is sedentary (as opposite to migratory breeder); ssp = subspecies; S = Summer; VP = V. Penna; W = wintering; Wp = a bird only partially wintering in the site; ? = doubt related to the status of some species, then in brackets, for example (B irr), the status is uncertain and not supported by sure proofs proving it behind doubt.; 2CY = 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar year.

## RESULTS

In total, 261 species are now known for Pantelleria, 63 of which nest on the island, 48 with certainty (1 extinct), 5 probably and 10 possibly (Corso & Gustin, in press b). Compared to the checklist by Moltoni (1973), 43 species are new to the island.

The most interesting data about migratory species or vagrant are briefly compared with those available in the literature. For the rare species, the status in Italy is also provided. The new relevant data collected during the study are reported and discussed below, species by species; for these, number of known records are reported, with date, site of observation, no. of individuals, sex and age, name of the observer/s. For vagrants, the number of known records for Italy is also reported.

A complete list of all species observed to date on the island is provided and the most relevant records are reported.

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS FROM PANTELLERIA ISLAND

### ANSERIFORMES

#### ANATIDAE

1.01590 *Anser albifrons* (Scopoli, 1769) A-1 (11/2011) N

- 2.01610 *Anser anser* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr (?)  
 3.01730 *Tadorna tadorna* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 4.01790 *Anas penelope* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 5.01820 *Anas strepera* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 6.01840 *Anas crecca* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 7.01860 *Anas platyrhynchos* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 8.01890 *Anas acuta* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 9.01910 *Anas querquedula* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 10.01940 *Anas clypeata* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 11.01950 *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (Ménétries, 1832) A-1 (09/2008)N  
 12.02260 *Oxyura leucocephala* (Scopoli, 1769) A-1 (07/1954)  
 13.01980 *Aythya ferina* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp (?)  
 14.02020 *Aythya nyroca* (Güldenstädt, 1770) Mr N  
 15.02030 *Aythya fuligula* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi N  
 16.02210 *Mergus serrator* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi (?), Wp (?)  
 17.02230 *Mergus merganser* (Linnaeus, 1758) A-1 (12/1972)
- GALLIFORMES  
 PHASIANIDAE
- 18.03570 *Alectoris graeca* (Meisner, 1804) SB extinct  
 19.03700 *Coturnix coturnix* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B
- GAVIIFORMES  
 GAVIIDAE
- 20.62 00030 *Gavia arctica* (Linnaeus, 1758) A (11/1969)
- PODICIPEDIFORMES  
 PODICIPEDIDAE
- 21.00070 *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (Pallas, 1764) Mr, Wp (?)  
 22.00090 *Podiceps cristatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp (?)  
 23.00120 *Podiceps nigricollis* (C. L. Brehm, 1831) Mr, Wp
- PROCELLARIIFORMES  
 PROCELLARIIDAE
- 24.00360 *Calonectris diomedea* (Scopoli, 1769) Mr, B  
 25.00462 *Puffinus yelkouan* (Acerbi, 1827) Mr, B
- HYDROBATIDAE
- 26.00520 *Hydrobates pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr (?), B (?)
- PELECANIFORMES  
 PELECANIDAE
- 27.00880 *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (Linnaeus, 1758) A
- SULIDAE
- 28.00710 *Morus bassanus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, W
- PHALACROCORACIDAE
- 29.00720 *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 30.00800 *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (Linnaeus, 1761) A N
- CICONIIFORMES  
 ARDEIDAE
- 31.01220 *Ardea cinerea* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 32.01240 *Ardea purpurea* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr  
 33.01210 *Casmerodius albus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 34.01190 *Egretta garzetta* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr; Wp  
 35.01080 *Ardeola ralloides* (Scopoli, 1769) Mr  
 36.01110 *Bubulcus ibis* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi N  
 37.01040 *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 38.00980 *Ixobrychus minutus* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr  
 39.00950 *Botaurus stellaris* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi N
- CICONIIDAE
- 40.01310 *Ciconia nigra* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 41.01340 *Ciconia ciconia* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr
- THRESKIORNITHIDAE
- 42.1360 *Plegadis falcinellus* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mi  
 43.01440 *Platalea leucorodia* Linnaeus, 1758 Mi
- PHOENICOPTERIFORMES  
 PHOENICOPTERIDAE
- 44.01470 *Phoenicopus roseus* (Pallas, 1811) Mr

FALCONIFORMES  
PANDIONIDAE45.03010 *Pandion haliaetus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr

## ACCIPITRIDAE

46.02310 *Pernis apivorus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B  
(r.?; 1 cp.)47.02390 *Milvus milvus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi48.02380 *Milvus migrans* (Boddaert, 1783) Mr49.02470 *Neophron percnopterus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
Mi50.02560 *Circaetus gallicus* (Gmelin, 1788) Mr (er-  
ratic?)51.02600 *Circus aeruginosus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr52.02610 *Circus cyaneus* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr53.02620 *Circus macrourus* (S. G. Gmelin, 1771) Mr54.02630 *Circus pygargus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr55.02730 *Accipiter brevipes* (Severtzov, 1850) A-1  
(05/2012) N (pending COI ratification)56.02690 *Accipiter nisus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi, Bi ?57.02870 *Buteo buteo* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp, B58.02880 *Buteo rufinus* (Cretzschmar, 1827) ssp.  
*cirtensis* (Mr, B); ssp. *rufinus* (A) N59.02920 *Aquila pomarina* (C. L. Brehm, 1831)  
Mr (?) N60.02942 *Aquila nipalensis* (Hodgson, 1833) A-2  
(05/2012) N61.02950 *Aquila heliaca* (Savigny, 1809) A-1  
(05/2010) N62.02980 *Aquila pennata* (Gmelin, 1788) Mr, B  
(SB?) N

## FALCONIDAE

63.03030 *Falco naumanni* (Fleischer, 1818) Mr64.03040 *Falco tinnunculus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B65.03070 *Falco vespertinus* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr66.03110 *Falco eleonora* (Géné, 1839) Mr67.03120 *Falco concolor* (Temminck, 1825) A-1  
(05/2012) N (pending COI ratification)68.03090 *Falco columbarius* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi69.03100 *Falco subbuteo* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B70.03140 *Falco biarmicus* (Temminck, 1825) ssp.  
*erlangeri* A-1 (04/2006) N71.03200 *Falco peregrinus* (Tunstall, 1771) Mr,  
Wp, B; ssp. *calidus* Mr, WiGRUIFORMES  
GRUIDAE72.04330 *Grus grus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr

## RALLIDAE

73.04070 *Rallus aquaticus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr,  
Wp, B (i?)74.04210 *Crex crex* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi (?)75.04100 *Porzana parva* (Scopoli, 1769) A N76.04080 *Porzana porzana* (Linnaeus, 1766) A77.04240 *Gallinula chloropus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr,  
Wp, B (i?)78.04290 *Fulica atra* Linnaeus, 1758 Mr, Wp

## OTIDIDAE

79.04440 *Chlamydotis undulata* (Jacquin, 1784) A-1  
(11/1911)80.04460 *Otis tarda* (Linnaeus, 1758) A81.04420 *Tetrax tetrax* (Linnaeus, 1758) A-1 (1967?)CHARADRIIFORMES  
HAEMATOPODIDAE82.04500 *Haematopus ostralegus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi

## RECURVIROSTRIDAE

83.04550 *Himantopus himantopus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr84.04560 *Recurvirostra avosetta* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi

## BURHINIDAE

85.04590 *Burhinus oedicnemus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr

## GLAREOLIDAE

86.04650 *Glareola pratincola* (Linnaeus, 1766) M(i ?)

## CHARADRIIDAE

87.04930 *Vanellus vanellus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr88.04910 *Vanellus gregarius* (Pallas, 1771) (A-1,  
09/1990) N89.04850 *Pluvialis apricaria* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr90.04860 *Pluvialis squatarola* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr91.04700 *Charadrius hiaticula* Linnaeus, 1758 Mr92.04690 *Charadrius dubius* (Scopoli, 1786) Mr

- 93.04770 *Charadrius alexandrinus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Bi  
 94.04820 *Charadrius morinellus* (Linnaeus, 1758) M(r ?)
- SCOLOPACIDAE
- 95.05290 *Scolopax rusticola* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 96.05180 *Lymnocyptes minimus* (Brünnich, 1764) Mi  
 97.05200 *Gallinago media* (Latham, 1787) A-2  
 98.05190 *Gallinago gallinago* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 99.05320 *Limosa limosa* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi N  
 100.05340 *Limosa lapponica* (Linnaeus, 1758) A N  
 101.05380 *Numenius phaeopus* (Linnaeus, 1758) M(r?)  
 102.05410 *Numenius arquata* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 103.05450 *Tringa erythropus* (Pallas, 1764) Mr  
 104.05460 *Tringa totanus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 105.05470 *Tringa stagnatilis* (Bechstein, 1803) Mi  
 106.05480 *Tringa nebularia* (Gunnerus, 1767) Mr  
 107.05530 *Tringa ochropus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 108.05540 *Tringa glareola* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 109.05560 *Actitis hypoleucos* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 110.05610 *Arenaria interpres* (Linnaeus, 1758) M(r?)  
 111.04960 *Calidris canutus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 112.04970 *Calidris alba* (Pallas, 1764) Mr  
 113.05010 *Calidris minuta* (Leisler, 1812) Mr  
 114.05020 *Calidris temminckii* (Leisler, 1812) Mi  
 115.05090 *Calidris ferruginea* (Pontoppidan, 1763) Mr  
 116.05120 *Calidris alpina* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 117.05170 *Philomachus pugnax* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 118.05650 *Phalaropus fulicarius* (Linnaeus, 1758) A-1 (08/1966)
- STERCORARIIDAE
- 119.05690 *Stercorarius skua* (Brünnich, 1764) Mi N  
 120.05660 *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temminck, 1815) Mi N  
 121.05670 *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi
- LARIDAE
- 122.05880 *Larus audouinii* (Payraudeau, 1826) Mi  
 123.05910 *Larus fuscus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi
- 124.05926 *Larus michahellis* (Naumann, 1840) SB, W, Mr  
 125.05900 *Larus canus* (Linnaeus, 1758) A  
 126.05820 *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr, Wp  
 127.05850 *Chroicocephalus genei* (Brême, 1840) Mi  
 128.05750 *Larus melanocephalus* (Temminck, 1820) Mr  
 129.05780 *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (Pallas, 1776) Mi  
 130.06020 *Rissa tridactyla* (Linnaeus, 1758) A N
- STERNIDAE
- 131.06050 *Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gmelin, 1789) Mi  
 132.06060 *Hydroprogne caspia* (Pallas, 1770) Mi  
 133.06110 *Sterna sandvicensis* (Latham, 1787) Mr, Wp  
 134.06150 *Sterna hirundo* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 135.06240 *Sternula albifrons* (Pallas, 1764) Mi N  
 136.06260 *Chlidonias hybrida* (Pallas, 1811) Mr N  
 137.06280 *Chlidonias leucopterus* (Temminck, 1815) Mi N  
 138.06270 *Chlidonias niger* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr
- ALCIDAE
- 139.270 06540 *Fratercula arctica* (Linnaeus, 1758) A-1 (1978)
- COLUMBIFORMES  
 COLUMBIDAE
- 140.06650 *Columba livia* (var. *domestica*) Gmelin, 1789 SB  
 141.06700 *Columba palumbus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, SB  
 142.06870 *Streptopelia turtur* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B  
 143.06840 *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frisvaldszky, 1838) SB  
 144.06900 *Streptopelia senegalensis* (Linnaeus, 1766) SB N
- CUCULIFORMES  
 CUCULIDAE
- 145.07160 *Clamator glandarius* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi N

- 146.07240 *Cuculus canorus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B(r?)  
 STRIGIFORMES  
 TYTONIDAE
- 147.07350 *Tyto alba* (Scopoli, 1769) SB  
 STRIGIDAE
- 148.7390 *Otus scops* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B(r?)  
 149.07570 *Athene noctua* (Scopoli, 1769) M(i?), (Bi?)  
 150.07670 *Asio otus* (Linnaeus, 1758) B (SB?), Mr, Wp  
 151.07680 *Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan, 1763) M(i?) N  
 CAPRIMULGIFORMES  
 CAPRIMULGIDAE
- 152.07790 *Caprimulgus ruficollis* (Temminck, 1820) A-1 (5/2008) N (pending COI ratification)  
 153.07780 *Caprimulgus europaeus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B  
 APODIFORMES  
 APODIDAE
- 154.07980 *Apus melba* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B  
 155.07950 *Apus apus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B  
 156.07960 *Apus pallidus* (Shelley, 1870) Mr, B  
 CORACIIFORMES  
 ALCEDINIDAE
- 157.08310 *Alcedo atthis* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 MEROPIDAE
- 158.08400 *Merops apiaster* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Bi  
 Coraciidae  
 159.08410 *Coracias garrulus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 UPUPIDAE
- 160.08460 *Upupa epops* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, (B?)  
 PICIFORMES
- PICIDAE
- 161.08480 *Jynx torquilla* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, (Bi?)  
 PASSERIFORMES  
 ALAUDIDAE
- 162.09610 *Melanocorypha calandra* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mi  
 163.09680 *Calandrella brachydactyla* (Leisler, 1814) Mr, B  
 164.09720 *Galerida cristata* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 165.09740 *Lullula arborea* (Linnaeus, 1758) A  
 166.09760 *Alauda arvensis* Linnaeus, 1758 Mr  
 HIRUNDINIDAE
- 167.09810 *Riparia riparia* (Linnaeus, 1758) M r  
 168.09910 *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (Scopoli, 1769) Mi  
 169.09920 *Hirundo rustica* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Bi  
 170.09950 *Cecropis daurica* (Linnaeus, 1771) Mr  
 171.10010 *Delichon urbicum* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Bi  
 MOTACILLIDAE
- 172.10200 *Motacilla alba* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Bi  
 173.10180 *Motacilla citreola* (Pallas, 1776) A-3 (Mi?) N  
 174.10170 *Motacilla flava* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, (Bi?)  
 175.10190 *Motacilla cinerea* (Tunstall, 1771) Mr, Wp  
 176.10050 *Anthus campestris* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B  
 177.10020 *Anthus richardi* (Vieillot, 1818) A-1 (10/1955)  
 178.10090 *Anthus trivialis* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 179.10110 *Anthus pratensis* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 180.10120 *Anthus cervinus* (Pallas, 1811) Mr  
 181.10140 *Anthus spinoletta* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 RULIDAE
- 182.13140 *Rulus rulus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp  
 183.13150 *Rulus ignicapilla* (Temminck, 1820) Mr, Wp  
 PRUNELLIDAE
- 184.10840 *Prunella modularis* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp



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Figure 1. *Anser albifrons*, Pantelleria, 11.2011 (PF). Figure 2. *Buteo rufinus cirtensis*, adult, Pantelleria. Figure 3. *Falco peregrinus* ssp, f ad nesting at Bagno di Venere (Pantelleria). Figure 4, 5. *Gallinago media*, Bagno di Venere, 15.05.2011 (AC & O. Janni). Figure 6. *Streptopelia senegalensis*, Pantelleria (MV). Figure 7. *Sylvia melanocephala*, m ad, Pantelleria, spring.

## TURDIDAE

- 185.10950 *Cercotrichas galactotes* (Temminck, 1820) A-4 (Mi?)  
 186.10990 *Erithacus rubecula* (Linnaeus, 1758) W, Mr, B(r?)  
 187.11040 *Luscinia megarhynchos* (Brehm, 1831) Mr, (B?)  
 188.11060 *Luscinia svecica* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 189.11210 *Phoenicurus ochruros* (Gmelin, 1774) Mr, W  
 190.11220 *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 191.11370 *Saxicola rubetra* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 192.11390 *Saxicola torquatus* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr, Wp, (B ?)  
 193.11580 *Oenanthe leucura* (Gmelin, 1789) A-1 (04/2009) N  
 194.11460 *Oenanthe oenanthe* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 195.11480 *Oenanthe hispanica* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 196.11490 *Oenanthe deserti* (Temminck, 1825) A-1 (12/2011) N  
 197.11440 *Oenanthe isabellina* (Temminck, 1829) A-1 (03/2012) N  
 198.11620 *Monticola saxatilis* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr  
 199.11660 *Monticola solitarius* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B  
 200.11860 *Turdus torquatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) A-2  
 201.11870 *Turdus merula* (Linnaeus, 1758) SB, Mr  
 202.11980 *Turdus pilaris* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 203.12010 *Turdus iliacus* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mi, Wi  
 204.12000 *Turdus philomelos* (Brehm, 1831) W, Mr  
 205.12020 *Turdus viscivorus* (Linnaeus, 1758) N SB, Mr

## SYLVIIDAE

- 206.12260 *Cisticola juncidis* (Rafinesque, 1810) ssp. *cisticola* SB; ssp. *juncidis* Mi, (Bi ?)  
 207.12380 *Locustella luscinioides* (Savi, 1824) A-1 (5/2009) N  
 208.12410 *Acrocephalus melanopogon* (Temminck, 1823) A N  
 209.12430 *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 210.12510 *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (Hermann, 1804) Mr  
 211.12530 *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr

- 212.12590 *Hippolais icterina* (Vieillot, 1817) Mr  
 213.12600 *Hippolais polyglotta* (Vieillot, 1817) Mi  
 214.13120 *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 215.13110 *Phylloscopus collybita* (Vieillot, 1817) Mr, W, (B ?)  
 216.13070 *Phylloscopus bonelli* (Vieillot, 1819) M(r ?)  
 217.13080 *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (Bechstein, 1793) r  
 218.13000 *Phylloscopus inornatus* (Blyth, 1842) A-2 (04/1931; 05/2012)  
 219.12770 *Sylvia atricapilla* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, W, (B?)  
 220.12760 *Sylvia borin* (Boddaert, 1783) Mr  
 221.12740 *Sylvia curruca* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 222.12750 *Sylvia communis* (Latham, 1787) Mr  
 223.12640 *Sylvia conspicillata* (Temminck, 1820) Mr, B(i?)  
 224.12620 *Sylvia undata* (Boddaert, 1783) SB, (Wp, Mi?)  
 225.12610 *Sylvia sarda* (Temminck, 1820) SB extinct  
 226.12650 *Sylvia cantillans* (Pallas, 1764) Mr, B ?  
 227.12670 *Sylvia melanocephala* (Gmelin, 1789) SB, Wp, Mr  
 228.12690 *Sylvia rueppelli* (Temminck, 1823) A-1 (06/1970)

## MUSCICAPIDAE

- 229.13350 *Muscicapa striata* (Pallas, 1764) Mr, B(r?)  
 230.13490 *Ficedula hypoleuca* (Pallas, 1764) Mr  
 231.13480 *Ficedula albicollis* (Temminck, 1815) Mr  
 232.13470 *Ficedula semitorquata* (Homeyer, 1885) A-5 (Mi?) N  
 233.13430 *Ficedula parva* (Bechstein, 1794) A-1 (04/2008) N  
 222.10990 *Erithacus rubecula* (Linnaeus, 1758) W, M reg, B (r?)  
 223.11040 *Luscinia megarhynchos* (C. L. Brehm, 1831) Mr, (B?)  
 224.11060 *Luscinia svecica* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi  
 225.10950 *Erythropygia galactotes* (Temminck, 1820) A-4  
 226.11210 *Phoenicurus ochruros* (S. G. Gmelin, 1774) Mr, W



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Figures 8-13. Bagno di Venere (Pantelleria). Figure 8. *Motacilla citreola*, m, 16.5.2008, Figure 9. *Motacilla* sp., juv, 9.9.2008, showing mixed characters of *citreola* and *flava*. Figure 10. *Motacilla flava* ssp. Figure 11. *Motacilla flava* ssp, m, “*xanthophrys*” (likely *feldegg* x ?). Figure 12. *Motacilla flava feldegg*, m ad. Figure 13. *Motacilla flava cinereocapilla*, m ad, spring.

- 227.11220 *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 228.11370 *Saxicola rubetra* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 229.11390 *Saxicola torquatus* (Linnaeus, 1766) Mr, Wp, B?  
 230.11580 *Oenanthe leucura* (Gmelin, 1789) A-1 (04/2009) N  
 231.11460 *Oenanthe oenanthe* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 232.11480 *Oenanthe hispanica* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr  
 233.11490 *Oenanthe deserti* (Temminck, 1825) A-1 (12/2011) N  
 234.11440 *Oenanthe isabellina* (Temminck, 1829) A-1 (03/2012) N

## PARIDAE

- 234.14622 *Cyanistes teneriffae* Lesson, 1831 - ssp. *ultramarinus* SB

## REMIZIDAE

- 235.14900 *Remiz pendulinus* (Linnaeus, 1758) A (Mi?)

## ORIOOLIDAE

- 236.15080 *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, (B?)

## LANIIDAE

- 237.15150 *Lanius collurio* (Linnaeus, 1758) M(i?)  
 238.15140 *Lanius isabellinus* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833) A-1 (11/2011) N (pending COI ratification)  
 239.15190 *Lanius minor* (Gmelin, 1788) A-1 (11/2011) N  
 240.15230 *Lanius senator* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, B?

## CORVIDAE

- 241.15673 *Corvus cornix* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi N  
 242.15720 *Corvus corax* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi N

## STURNIDAE

- 243.15820 *Sturnus vulgaris* (Linnaeus, 1758) W, Mr, (B ?)  
 244.15830 *Sturnus unicolor* (Temminck, 1820) Mr, Bi

## PASSERIDAE

- 245.15910 *Passer (domesticus) italiae* (Vieillot, 1817) SB N  
 246.15920 *Passer hispaniolensis* (Temminck, 1820) Mr, Br  
 247.15980 *Passer montanus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Bi?, Mi

## FRINGILLIDAE

- 248.16360 *Fringilla coelebs* (Linnaeus, 1758) W, Mr  
 249. *Fringilla (coelebs) spodiogenys* Mi (Bi?) N  
 250.16380 *Fringilla montifringilla* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mi, Wi  
 251.16490 *Carduelis chloris* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr, Wp, B(i?)  
 252.16540 *Carduelis spinus* (Linnaeus, 1758) W, Mr  
 253.16530 *Carduelis carduelis* (Linnaeus, 1758) SB, Mr, Wp  
 254.16600 *Carduelis cannabina* (Linnaeus, 1758) SB, Mr, Wp  
 255.16400 *Serinus serinus* (Linnaeus, 1766) SB(i ?), Mr, Wp  
 256.17170 *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (Linnaeus, 1758) W, Mr  
 257.16760 *Bucanetes githagineus* (Lichtenstein, 1823) A-5

## EMBERIZIDAE

- 258.18660 *Emberiza hortulana* (Linnaeus, 1758) A (Mi?)  
 259.18770 *Emberiza schoeniclus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Mr N  
 260.18500 *Plectrophenax nivalis* (Linnaeus, 1758) A-1 (10/1970)  
 261.18820 *Emberiza calandra* Linnaeus, 1758 SB (r?), Mr, W

**RELEVANT RECORDS OF THE BIRDS FROM PANTELLERIA ISLAND**

## ANATIDAE

*Anser albifrons* (Scopoli, 1769)

White-fronted Goose. New species for the island. Throughout November 2011, a 1st W bird, ap-



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Figures 14-20. Pantelleria. Figure 14. *Oenanthe deserti*, m, Arenella, 2.12.2011 (AB). Figure 15. *Ficedula* sp., m, Bagno di Venere, 22/27.4.2009, showing characters of the taxa *speculiger*/*aliberiae*. Figures 16, 17. *Lanius* cf. *isabellinus*, juv, località Suvaki, 9.11.2011 (AB). Figure 18. *Lanius senator senator*. Figure 19. *Ficedula albicollis*, m ad, Bagno di Venere. Figure 20. *Hirundo rustica*.

parently of the nominate ssp, was observed along the north coast of the island.

***Marmaronetta angustirostris*** (Ménétries, 1832)

Marbled Duck. Not previously reported, a single record known concerning 1 ind observed on 15.09.2008 at Bagno di Venere (AC). This species, once a very rare vagrant in Italy, since 2000 begun to nest with some pairs in southern Sicily (provinces of Agrigento and Siracusa) (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2003), probably as a consequence of the increase of the Tunisian population (Corso, 2005; Isenmann et al., 2005). The number of breeding pairs in Sicily is estimated in 4-8 pairs (Corso, 2005; pers. obs.). Never recorded in all the other surrounding Sicilian islands.

***Aythya nyroca*** (Güldenstädt, 1770)

Ferruginous Duck. Not reported previously, numerous observations are known in recent years, both during pre-breeding and post-breeding movements, although usually referred to single individual or small flocks (max 6). Species breeding in Sicily with a population of national relevance, among the most relevant in Europe (Corso & Janni, 2001; Corso, 2005).

PHALACROCORACIDAE

***Phalacrocorax aristotelis*** (Linnaeus, 1761)

Shag. New species for the island. 1 im observed on 5.09.2007 at Pantelleria harbour (Corso et al., 2009a).

ACCIPITRIDAE

***Milvus milvus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Red Kite. Not reported by previous authors, we obtained at least 5 records concerning 8 birds, during the period 2009-2012 (Gustin, 2009, 2012; AC & VP). Of these, 3 ind were observed together on 5.04.2011, along with 8 black kites (T. La Mantia, pers. comm.). The observation of this species crossing the Sicilian Channel, not mentioned by Corso (2005), is very interesting. In other small islands of the Sicilian Channel, like Pelagie islands, the species is surely rarer or even a vagrant (Corso et al., 2009b).

***Neophron percnopterus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Egyptian Vulture. During the survey on raptors migration, 1 ind was observed in 2006 (Gustin, 2006) and a flock of 4 birds was observed from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012 (AC & VP; Gustin, 2012). The reproduction of this species begins in March-April; the observation of more than 2 ind together is rather rare during the pre-breeding migration in the Sicilian Channel, something instead more frequently observed during the post-breeding migration (Corso, 2005).

***Circaetus gallicus*** (Gmelin, 1788)

Short-toed Eagle. Already mentioned by Moltoni (1973) with some observations reported. In Spring 2004 to 2012, during the raptors migration survey carried out on behalf of LIPU, 20 ind in total were counted, with a maximum of 10 in 2004 (Corso & Gustin, in press a; Gustin, 2005-2009; Gustin, 2012). During pre-breeding migration, most short-toed eagles (mainly the experienced adults) tend to avoid crossing the Sicilian Channel, preferring to migrate through the Iberian-Tyrrhenian flyway (Agostini et al., 2002; 2009). It remains unclear, however, if individuals were observed at Pantelleria in active migration moving north, or if they were simply erratic birds arrived from Tunisia, where the species breeds in good number (Isenmann et al., 2005).

***Buteo rufinus cirtensis*** (Levaillant, 1849)

Atlas Long-legged Buzzard. Pantelleria is today the only national site where the species is known to breed (Corso & Gustin, in press b). Corso (2005) reported the presence of a maximum of 21 ind in spring, most of them being immature in 2CY.

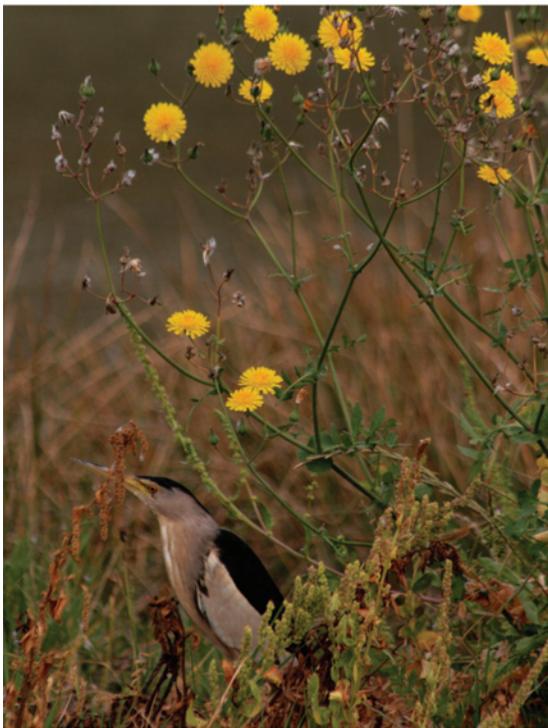
AA. VV. (2008) reported the possible breeding of this taxon. Corso (2009) confirmed the breeding, mentioning a case of a mixed pair *Buteo buteo buteo* x *Buteo rufinus cirtensis* in May 2008, which fledged one juv, and reporting two pure breeding pairs of *cirtensis*. Since 2004, observed regularly on the island with 1-2 pairs, in 2007 and 2008 one pair was observed attending a nest in a large cavity on a cliff of the south/south-east slope of Mt Grande. Observed up to 2 pairs simultaneously. From 2004 to 2012 adults were observed in territorial display, breeding courtship, breeding behavior



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Figure 21. *Calandrella brachydactyla*, Pantelleria, note the extensive rusty-orange plumage with least marked dark pattern, closer to the ssp. *rubiginosa* rather than to the nominate one. Figure 22. *Calandrella brachydactyla rubiginosa*, Linosa, Pelagian Island (I. Maiorano). Figure 23. *Ixobrychus minutus*, Pantelleria. Figure 24. *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Pantelleria. Figure 25. *Ciconia ciconia*, Pantelleria.

and territorial behavior, and several juveniles were observed too. The presence of birds which are difficult to identify, showing intermediate characters with *Buteo buteo*, as well as the presence of typical *cirtensis* mating with bird closer in appearance to Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* makes the picture very complex and difficult to define. In Europe, the only other areas where this distinctive taxon is breeding are southern Spain (Tarifa, Gibraltar) and Portugal, where mixed pairs or presumed mixed pairs and presumed hybrids have been observed during the last ten years (Elorriaga & Muñoz, 2010; L. Palma, pers. comm.).

***Buteo buteo vulpinus*** (Gloger, 1833)

Steppe Buzzard. Not reported historically (Moltoni, 1973), in recent years, observed with some birds during pre-breeding migration in Spring 2004-2011 (Corso, 2005; Gustin, 2005-2009; Corso & Gustin, in press a). During spring 2012, along with the largest passage ever recorded of Honey Buzzard for Pantelleria, a record number of 8 ind was recorded (AC & VP; Gustin, 2012).

***Aquila pomarina*** (Brehm, 1831)

Lesser Spotted Eagle. Not reported by Moltoni (1973). Observed annually during the raptors pre-breeding migration survey conducted on behalf of LIPU. In particular : 1 ind observed in Spring 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, while 2 (3) in Spring 2012 (AC & VP; Gustin, 2005-2009; Gustin, 2012; Corso & Gustin, in press a). During the survey on raptor migration at Cap Bon, Tunisia, the species is regularly observed in spring, with a substantial number of birds, therefore it is not unexpected that some birds reach Pantelleria (Corso, 2005; Isenmann et al., 2005).

***Aquila nipalensis*** (Hodgson, 1833)

Steppe Eagle. New species for the island and for the Sicilian Channel islands; 2 observed during the survey on raptor migration on behalf of LIPU in the Spring 2012: 1 juv (in 2CY) on 04.05.2012 and 1 ad on 5.05.2012 (AC & VP; Gustin, 2012). The species is a rare vagrant in Italy with less than 20 records (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2003; Corso, 2005; EBN Italia). At Cap Bon, Tunisia, observed

regularly with several dozen indd., therefore, the absence of records on Pantelleria was surprising (Corso, 2005).

***Aquila heliaca*** (Savigny, 1809)

Imperial Eagle. A single record, relating to 1 im (2/3CY) observed on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010, at Mt. Grande (AC & VP; Corso & Gustin, in press a). The species is an irregular migrant in Italy (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2003; EBN Italia). In spring 2010, coinciding with an unprecedented influx into Italy of species from the Balkans, 4 or 5 other imperial eagles were observed, 3 of which in Sicily (Ruggieri & Nicoli, 2011).

***Aquila pennata*** (Gmelin, 1788)

Booted Eagle. Breeding recorded for the first time in Italy at Pantelleria by Corso & Gustin (in press b), still pending approval by the COI. A pair nesting on the island with certainty since at least 2004, the first year of our study. The same pair occupied the same territory from 2005 to 2012, but in recent years, the adult white morph female has disappeared being replaced by an adult dark morph. Regularly seen in spring in territorial and mating display, in courtship display, and other breeding related behaviors. During summer to autumn, the adult pair was observed accompanied by juvenile birds, obviously recently fledged, forming family party (AC, PF). In the Spring 2012, another pair, both sexes of the white morph, has occupied the island, maintaining a different territory than the first pair. In August-September 2012, one pair was accompanying two fresh juveniles (PF).

FALCONIDAE

***Falco biarmicus*** (Temminck, 1825)

Lanner Falcon. 1 adult of the ssp. *erlangeri* (Kleinschmidt, 1901), typical of North Africa, observed and photographed repeatedly while hunting over the airport of Pantelleria during the period 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006 (Gustin, 2006; R. Gildi, per. com.). Less than four historical records are known for Italy (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2003; Corso, 2005) and one recent observation at Siracusa in April 2012 of an adult bird (AC & B.J. Small). The record ob-



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Figure 26. *Glareola pratincola*, Pantelleria. Figure 27. *Milvus milvus*, juv, Dammusi di Ghirlanda, Pantelleria. Figure 28. *Cyanistes teneriffae ultramarinus*, Pantelleria (I. Maiorano).

tained in Pantelleria is certainly the most detailed report and the best documented one (Corso, 2005).

#### SCOLOPACIDAE

##### *Gallinago media* (Latham, 1787)

Great Snipe. A single historical record (Moltoni, 1973). We have seen this species on a single occasion: 1 ind found exhausted at Bagno di Venere on 15.05.2011 (AC & O. Janni). The bird was picked up, re-hydrated, fed and released with success in the same site of discovery. During the same period (April-May 2011) was recorded one of the most significant migratory influx noted in Italy in recent decades (EBN Italia).

#### COLUMBIDAE

##### *Streptopelia senegalensis* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Laughing Dove. From the first, a nest was found with eggs in 2004, followed until hatching (Corso, 2005) and the record accepted by the COI (Janni & Fracasso, 2009); to date the species has shown a significant and fast increase up to approx. 62-70 pairs estimated on 2011 (Corso & Gustin, in press b; Corso et al., unpublished data). The population on the island is certainly attributable to the ssp. *phoenicophila* (Hartert, 1916) typical of North Africa (Corso, 2005).

#### TYTONIDAE

##### *Tyto alba* (Scopoli, 1769)

Barn Owl. The taxonomic position of the breeding population in Pantelleria and at the Pelagie islands is not clear. Corso (2005) believes that the ssp. *erlangeri* (Sclater, 1921) could be involved due to the proximity to the African coast from where likely the colonizers arrived. However, Vaurie (1965) does not report Tunisia as breeding ground for the ssp. *erlangeri*, moreover Isenmann et al. (2005) ascribe to the nominate ssp the population found in Tunisia. On the contrary, the taxonomic group AERC-TAC (the Taxonomical Committee of the Association of the European Rarities Committee) includes North Africa as distribution range of the ssp. *erlangeri*. Therefore the taxonomic status of the barn owls breeding on the islands of the Sicilian Channel remains unclear and deserves further in depth study.

#### STRIGIDAE

##### *Athene noctua* (Scopoli, 1769)

Little Owl. Corso (2005) makes no mention of the presence in Sicily of other taxon than the nominate ssp. *noctua* (Scopoli, 1769). Bricchetti & Fracasso (2003) report that Sicilian population may show sometimes intermediate characters with the ssp. *glaux* (Savigny, 1809), from the North African coast. In Pantelleria, the Little Owl is frequently observed, although not regularly, and is considered an irregular breeder (Moltoni, 1973; Corso, 2005; Corso & Gustin, in press b), while rare are the observations for the Pelagie islands (new work in preparation). Given the proximity of the Tunisian coastland, it is not excluded that individuals found on the islands in the Sicilian Channel can belong, at least in part, to the ssp. *glaux* (Savigny, 1809) (or even *saharae* Kleinschmidt, 1909). The few individuals seen in daylight, indeed, showed a very pale plumage, sandy colored, with quite broad pale markings, making the pale pattern rather striking (AC). Therefore, the little owls of Pantelleria and the Pelagie islands, should be studied more thoroughly in the future, possibly obtaining genetic samples, recordings of vocalizations and morphometric data.

#### CAPRIMULGIDAE

##### *Caprimulgus ruficollis* (Temminck, 1820)

Red-necked Nightjar. Not reported in other studies, we report a recent observation, probably referring to the ssp. *desertorum* (Erlager, 1899) from North Africa. Along the southern slope of Mt. Grande, 1 ind heard singing on 18.05.2008 and 1 ind, presumably different, observed along the road a few hundred meters away from the first sight (AC; Ruggieri & Nicoli, 2009). This report is pending approval by the COI. However, repeated attempts to relocate the species, by using play-back, have not succeeded, to date (AC, O. Janni, M. Robb). Given the high density of breeding pairs found in the promontory of Cap Bon, Tunisia (Isenmann et al., 2005), located 73 km from Pantelleria, and the similarity in the habitat between the two areas, its occasional nesting or its arrival is not surprising. Future more in depth researches are therefore advisable. The record, if approved by the COI, will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> known for Italy. There is one further

recent record of this species in Lampedusa, where 1 bird of the ssp. *desertorum* was ringed on 12.05.2010, recently accepted (Janni & Fracasso, in prep.)

#### ALAUDIDAE

##### *Calandrella brachydactyla* (Leisler, 1814)

Short-toed Lark. Taxonomic status of the breeding population of Pantelleria is unclear and deserves further studies. Corso (2005) reported the nominate subspecies only for the breeding population of Sicily. For Pantelleria, Moltoni (1973) reports the nominate subspecies only, probably on account of the taxon found all over Italy and without a proper plumage analysis of the breeding birds. The breeding population of Pantelleria and Pelagie, appears to show characters usually associated to the ssp. *rubiginosa* (Fromholz, 1913). Already Cova (1969) noticed that many birds from these Sicilian islands (with one bird described and illustrated collected at Linosa in May) showed characters of the ssp. *rubiginosa*, warning therefore future studies to establish their taxonomical status. Indeed, according to direct personal observations of the birds breeding in Pantelleria and Pelagie, the whole plumage is conspicuously more rusty orange or cinnamon buff brown, warmer and brighter compared to the breeding population of Sicily and Italy, with the crown almost unmarked orange, reddish or rusty-colored, the mantle being rusty-rufous tinged with the darker pattern just visible, often the streaking being barely darker and least marked (chiefly on the crown where often is not visible in the field), all characters reported to be typical of the taxon *rubiginosa* (Vaurie, 1959; Svensson, 1992). For the coastal and Northern Tunisia, Isenmann et al. (2005) reported the nominate subspecies. For Malta some authors report the nominate subspecies as breeding (Sultana & Gauci, 1982; Sultana et al., 2011) while others include the area within the distribution range of *rubiginosa* (Vaurie, 1959; Svensson, 1992), finally Fenech (2010) in his recent extensive work reports that both birds showing characters of nominate race as well as others looking closer to *rubiginosa* are observable in Malta. Whatever this taxon is valid or not is questionable (L. Svensson, pers. com.), but surely further research are deemed to clarify the taxonomic status of the birds found in the islands of the Sicilian Channel; a

comparison of series of birds from all over Italy and from the Sicilian Channel is in preparation.

#### MOTACILLIDAE

##### *Motacilla citreola* (Pallas, 1776)

Citrine Wagtail. Not reported previously. In recent years was observed three times, so that with wider and more frequent ornithological coverage of the island, probably the species would result an irregular migrant or a scarce regular migrant rather than a rare vagrant. Specifically, we have the following data, all backed up by videos, sound recordings and photos: 1 m and 1 f Bagno di Venere, 16.05.2008 (AC); 1 m Bagno di Venere, 05.08.2010 (M. Robb, AC & IM). Also observed two presumed hybrids *Motacilla citreola* x *Motacilla flava* ssp., showing characters intermediate between the two species: 1 f Bagno di Venere, 16/05/2008; 1 juv, Bagno di Venere, 09/09/2008 (both AC).

#### TURDIDAE

##### *Cercotrichas galactotes* (Temminck, 1820)

Rufous Bush-Chat. Two historical records - 1 on 5.05.1971 and 1 on 02.05.1976 (Corso, 2005). During this study, two more records were obtained including one bird on 22.04.2009 and one on 23.04.2009, in two different sites of Pantelleria (AC; Ruggieri & Nicoli, 2010).

##### *Turdus viscivorus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Mistle Thrush. Not mentioned by Moltoni (1973), reported by Corso (2005) as breeding in the island and confirmed by Corso & Gustin (in press b). It nests with some pairs since 2004, no other breeding data are known for small satellite islands of Italy (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2008). The breeding population on the Sicilian mountains is considered attributable to the nominate subspecies (Corso, 2005; Brichetti & Fracasso, 2008). The ssp. *deichleri* Erlanger, 1897, typical of North Africa, is limited in Italy to Sardinia (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2008). The subspecies of the breeding pairs on Pantelleria is unknown but probably they have colonized the island from the African coast, so they would belong to the ssp. *deichleri*. Future studies are desirable to clarify their taxonomic position.

***Turdus torquatus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Ring Ouzel. 1 juv, subspecies not identified, observed at Mt. Grande on 17.09.2008 (AC). Known previously for a single historical record of 1 bird captured in October 1964 (Moltoni, 1973).

## SYLVIIDAE

***Locustella luscinioides*** (Savi, 1824)

Savi's Warbler. A single record is known for Pantelleria island. 1 ind, singing on 18.05.2009 at Bagno di Venere (AC). Records of this species in Sicily are very scarce and irregular, with less than 13 known data (Corso, 2005; lentile, pers. com.), many of which obtained in recent years at Pelagic islands (Corso, 2005; Corso et al, unpublished data).

***Phylloscopus inornatus*** (Blyth, 1842)

Yellow-browed Warbler. An historical record refers to 1 bird on 09.04.1931 (Moltoni, 1973). New record: 1 at Pantelleria town in a garden with Tamerisks, on 17.5.2012 (AC). Species observed more frequently in recent years on the islands surrounding Sicily (chiefly at Linosa and Lampedusa) and in general elsewhere in Italy, so that it could now be considered a regular migrant albeit scarce (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2010). In Pantelleria, it is still a very rare vagrant, surely due to the lacking of ornithological coverage during the best period of occurrence. In fact, virtually all records obtained in Italy are from October-November, while Spring records remain occasional.

***Sylvia sarda*** (Temminck, 1820)

Marmora's Warbler. As suggested already by Corso (2005), VV. AA. (2008) and reported by Corso & Gustin (in press b), we could confirm the extinction of this species in Pantelleria. Although it has been assiduously sought, in all suitable breeding habitat and also by the use of playback, the species was never contacted in 2004-2012. As opposite, the species was recently found in several occasion in Lampedusa (Pelagic islands), where it should be clarified if it is simply a wintering/wondering bird or if there is a little and localized breeding population (Corso et al., unpublished data).

## MUSCICAPIDAE

***Ficedula semitorquata*** (Homeyer, 1885)

Semi-collared Flycatcher. First data for Pantelleria, 5 records of 5 to 7 birds. 1 f at Bagno di Venere, on 02.05.2004 (AC; Ruggieri, 2005); 1 f on 28.04.2008, same locality (Ruggieri & Nicoli, 2009); 1 m photographed along the banks of Bagno di Venere, on 11-12.05.2009 (Ruggieri & Nicoli, 2010); 2 m on 24.04.2010, same site; 2 m again on 27.04.2010 (or same birds of the previous record?). In recent years, the species has been recorded regularly in Sicily and Italy, though always in a very small number (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2008).

***Ficedula parva*** (Bechstein, 1794)

Red-breasted Flycatcher. Not reported previously, we know a recent observation referred to 1 m on 26.04.2008 at Bagno di Venere (Ruggieri & Nicoli, 2009). This species is a regular autumn migrant at the Pelagic islands (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2008; Corso et al, unpublished data).

***Oenanthe leucura*** (Gmelin, 1789)

Black Wheatear. First record for the island refers to 1 m observed near Suvaki, on 24.04.2009 (Ruggieri & Nicoli, 2010). In Italy, where it was historically breeding, nowadays it is a rare vagrant (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2008).

***Oenanthe deserti*** (Temminck, 1825)

Desert Wheatear. Not reported previously. One recent record: 1 m (1st W?), photographed at Arenella, on 02.12.2011 (A. Belvisi, det AC). In Sicily, 12 additional records are known to date (Corso, 2005; personal data).

***Oenanthe isabellina*** (Temminck, 1829)

Isabelline Wheatear. Not reported in the literature. First observation known to us is relative to 1 bird photographed near the town of Pantelleria on 18.03.2012 (PF), in correspondence with one of the major influx of this species ever recorded in Italy (EBN Italia). The species is a regular migrant in eastern Sicily and the Pelagic islands, much less frequent in the northern area of the Sicilian Channel

and in western Sicily (Corso, 2005). With more coverage during the period of March-early April, the species would probably be more often recorded also in Pantelleria.

#### LANIIDAE

##### *Lanius isabellinus* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)

Isabelline (Daurian) Shrike. The first record for Pantelleria regards 1 juv observed and photographed on 9.11.2011 near Suvaki, probably belonging to the taxon *isabellinus* (A. Belvisi, det AC). This is the 11<sup>th</sup> record for Italy of the *Lanius isabellinus* complex, six of which were observed in Sicily (Corso, 2005; Bricchetti & Fracasso, 2011). The attribution to a certain taxon of the *Lanius isabellinus* complex (sensu lato) is extremely difficult (Pearson, 2000; Worfolk, 2000; van der Laan & CDNA, 2008; Panov, 2009; 2011; Pearson et al., 2012) and a review of all the Italian records would be desirable, even more so in light of the splitting of the taxa *phoenicuroides* and *isabellinus* into separate species as proposed by several authors (Pearson, 2000; Worfolk, 2000; van der Laan & CDNA, 2008; Panov, 2009; 2011; Bricchetti & Fracasso, 2011; Pearson et al., 2012).

##### *Lanius minor* (Gmelin, 1788)

Lesser Grey Shrike. Not mentioned by Moltoni (1973). We have obtained a recent record referring to 1 bird in 1st W plumage photographed on 17.11.2011 at Bagno di Venere (A. Belvisi). The species is an extremely scarce migrant through Sicilian Channel, having a more easterly migration (Corso, 2005; Bricchetti & Fracasso, 2011).

#### CORVIDAE

##### *Corvus cornix* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Hooded Crow. First record for Pantelleria related to 2 birds observed on 16.05.2004 (Corso, 2005). Afterward, 1-2 ind regularly observed in spring 2005 to 2012. The subspecies of the birds observed, as well as that of the birds of the Sicilian population (Corso, 2005) is uncertain and would deserve better studies.

##### *Corvus corax* (Linnaeus, 1758) (ssp.?)

Raven. First record for Pantelleria, referring to

1 bird observed at Scauri in May 2004 (Corso, 2005). Subsequently, observed in at least four other occasions since 2006 with 1-2 ind (AB, AC, PF, R. Gildi, P. Consolo). The subspecies of the birds observed on the island is doubtful, it is in fact uncertain if they were birds coming from Sicily, therefore belonging to the ssp. *corax* or *hispanus* Hartert & Kleinschmidt, 1901 (according to authors), or coming from Tunisia, in this case attributable to *tingitanus* (Irby, 1874) (Corso, 2005; Bricchetti & Fracasso, 2011). This latter taxon, is now considered a separate species by some authors (Baker & Omland, 2006). All ravens observed on the islands of the Sicilian Channel, should therefore be examined carefully, and ideally, for a positive determination, a good sound recording of the voice should be obtained (M. Robb, pers. comm.).

#### STURNIDAE

##### *Sturnus unicolor* (Temminck, 1820)

Spotless Starling. Reported historically in 1955 (Moltoni, 1973). In recent years, 1 to 4 ind observed regularly at Arenella and Grazia, from 2005 to 2012 (AC, VP, PF; E. Vigo, pers. comm.). Breeding was suspected in 2011 and confirmed for the first time in summer 2012, when two pairs of adult accompanied by 6 freshly fledged juveniles were photographed at Kazen, near Arenella (AC, PF).

#### FRINGILLIDAE

##### *Fringilla (coelebs) spodiogenys* (Bonaparte, 1841)

African Chaffinch. 1 observed in Pantelleria on 1.06.1987 (Iapichino & Massa, 1989). In recent years some males observed and also heard singing at Mt. Grande, into the woodland area. In May 2009, heard up to 2 or 3 m singing and observed 1 f (Ruggieri & Nicoli, 2010). Heard at least 1 m in 2008 and 2010 but none in 2011 and 2012. The potential habitat and proximity to Tunisia, as well as the repeated observations in suitable period at least since 1987, with males singing in several different days, suggest a possible breeding on the island, though not regularly. Data regarding nests or recently fledged juveniles should be obtained in the future in order to confirm its reproduction on the island.

***Bucanetes githagineus*** (Lichtenstein, 1823)

Trumpeter Finch. Reported by Moltoni (1973) with 2 birds on 25.10.1970, 2 more on 02.05.1971 and 3 on 5.05.1971, while 1 or 2 birds on 07.05.1971. New data: 2 specimens photographed together at Arenella, on 19.11.2010 (PF).

**CONCLUSIONS**

Contrary to Moltoni (1973), we decided to exclude from the checklist of Pantelleria two species: Great Tit (*Parus major* Linnaeus, 1758) and Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes* Linnaeus, 1758). For the former, Moltoni (1973) reports the observation by Steinfatt of 21 birds, on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1931. It is possible that this observation is due to confusion with the North African Blue Tit (*Cyanistes teneriffae* Lesson, 1831), which at that time was not known to be present on the island and whose appearance can be similar to Great Tit if conscious attention is not paid (Moltoni, 1971). Further, no other records of Great Tit are known for the islands of the Sicilian Channel islands. To support records of Wren, no detailed observation is reported, except a few general information provided by some local hunters.

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